

Dream Catcher

Fall 2001

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HUD/Tribal Consultation Summit Held in St. Paul, Minnesota

In July, officials from the Department of Housing and Urban Development met with tribal leaders and tribal housing experts at a national consultation summit held in St. Paul, Minnesota. For two days, the leaders discussed housing issues and proposed solutions to the many housing and infrastructure problems currently facing Indian Country.

Housing Authority and Chairman of the National American Indian Housing Council, served as co-chair for the summit in St. Paul, along with Ted L. Key, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Programs at HUD. Bernida Churchill, Area Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians, and a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



Randy Akers, Administrator of HUD's Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs; Chester Carl, Bernida Churchill, and Ted L. Key

The summit was the culmination of a series of national and regional consultation sessions, which began in 1999. "Working Together to Build Programs and Opportunities," was the name given to this 8th Native American Homeownership Summit sponsored by HUD.

Chester Carl, Executive
Director of the Navajo Nation

Indians, served as tribal facilitator and welcomed participants to the St. Paul area.

Of the 504 conference registrants, about 340 identified themselves as being affiliated with a tribe or a tribally designated housing entity. Most other registrants were from private or non-profit organizations, or from Federal agencies.

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Spokane Tribe of Indians Celebrate Opening of New Health Clinic

The Spokane Tribe of Indians celebrated in grand style the opening of the new David C. Wynecoop Memorial Clinic. Congressman George Nethercutt, Jr. and representatives from the Federal funding agencies—the IHS, HUD, and USDA—joined tribal leaders in the



Tribal Royalty and honor guard posted colors to start the celebration.

the greater Spokane metropolitan area.

Funding for the clinic exceeded \$2.7 million, more than half of which was contributed by the IHS. The remainder of the funding came from the Tribe, HUD's Indian Community Development Grant Program, and a grant from USDA's Rural Development Enterprise Community Project Funds.

Martha Dilts, Acting Secretary's Representative for HUD's Northwest/Alaska Area, spoke at the opening ceremonies. "The Spokane Tribe has a reputation for its continuing efforts to assure wellness for its members," Dilts said. She also complimented tribal leaders for their ability to raise the funds necessary to construct the clinic, "We thank you for your leadership in bringing together many funding partners to

raise the over \$2 million needed to make this new clinic a reality for your tribe. We all look forward to continuing our relationship with you as a partner in developing projects that will improve the housing, economic and health conditions of your tribe's members."

The David C. Wynecoop Clinic is a big step up from the smaller, older clinic and will allow the Tribe to provide a wider range of health related services to its members. The clinic will continue to provide general outpatient care and dental services, and will also serve as the base for limited preventative services in the disciplines of environmental health, community health nursing, and mental health.

The new clinic adds 13,380 square feet of health care space. It

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ceremonies, held August 10, on the Spokane Reservation at Wellpinit, Washington.

The clinic is named for David C. Wynecoop Sr., a Spokane Tribal member, who served as the Service Unit Director at the old clinic from its beginning in 1970 until 1985. With Congressman Nethercutt's assistance, Phoebe and Davey Wynecoop, the mother and son of David Sr., cut the ribbon and opened the doors.

The new clinic replaces an older, inadequate clinic. It will serve more than 2,200 Spokane tribal members, as well as members of the neighboring Kalispel tribe and other Native Americans living throughout



The new David C. Wynecoop Memorial Clinic expands the medical and dental services available to Tribal members.

Technical Assistance Tip

Housing Counseling: Financing the Future

Homebuyer counseling programs have proven to be key resources for Native American communities seeking to increase homeownership. These programs offer the information and skills families need to manage their finances and purchase and maintain a home.

Sherry Long, Community Development Director for the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCG) in Hickory, North Carolina, helped found the organization's homebuyer counseling program in 1995. While the process of starting a program can be complex, she encourages tribes to rise to the challenge. "Once you get started in putting together a program, things just fall together," she said.

Here are a few tips for tribes interested in starting their own housing counseling program:

Get Informed and Stay Informed.
A well-informed counseling staff that

understands and can explain the fundamentals of credit, personal finance, and banking, is critical. Investigate opportunities for staff to attend workshops or review up-to-date curricula. Many State housing finance agencies provide homebuyer counseling materials or can point you in the right direction. Consult the housing counseling resources provided below for other educational opportunities.

Continuing education, even for seasoned professionals, will help keep your staff abreast of the latest developments in housing counseling.

Reach the Right Audience. To be effective, housing counseling programs must reach individuals who are both capable of purchasing a home and in need of guidance. WPCG receives referrals from local lenders and from the local Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) office. Network with organizations in your area that work with low-income community

members to select good candidates for your training program.

Keep Your Eye on the Prize.
"People in our programs succeed because they have a goal: homeownership," said Long.

A housing counseling program must educate families on any number of subjects related to family finance, including living on a budget, accessing credit and using a bank account. Emphasizing the purchase of a home as the primary goal of the program will help participants remain focused and motivated to continue attending the sessions.

Be Helpful. While useful information on homebuying can be delivered in a classroom setting, there is no replacement for meeting one-on-one with families. WPCG combines these two approaches: housing counselors meet privately with each family in addition to a monthly classroom session.

Housing Counseling Resources

HUD Housing Counseling Clearinghouse: 1-888-HOME-4-US; http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc_home.cfm.

HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agencies: <http://www.hudhcc.org/agencies/hcamap.html>.

American Homeownership Education and Counseling Institute: 1-888-AHECI-99; www.aheci.org. Recognized as a leader in homeownership education, AHECI provides training, curricula and accreditation to housing counseling organizations.

Neighborhood Reinvestment Training Institute: 1-800-438-5547; www.nw.org. A division of NeighborWorks Network, this organization specializes in housing finance training and publications.

Fannie Mae: 1-800-7-FANNIE; www.fanniemae.com. Organizations that apply to join the Homebuyer Education Program receive training and course materials.

Freddie Mac: (703) 903-2000; www.freddiemac.com/community. Provides online training.

First Nations Development Institute: (540) 371-5615; www.firstnations.org. Developed in cooperation with Fannie Mae, *Financial Skills for Families: Building Native Communities* presents financial concepts in the context of Native American culture and tradition.

Native eDGE Staff Wins 2001 eGovernment Award

The “eDGE” in “Native eDGE” stands for “Economic Development Guidance and Empowerment.” It’s an interagency, e-government initiative designed to foster sustainable economic development within American Indian and Alaska Native communities. It’s a one-stop shop to access Federal and non-Federal grants, loans, loan

guarantees and technical assistance for American Indian and Alaska Native organizations. Eighteen Federal agencies are linked through a single web portal so that tribal individuals and organizations can collaborate with lending institutions, non-profits, foundations, and private businesses to promote economic

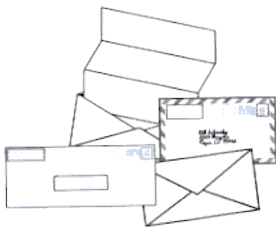
growth in Indian Country. Native eDGE includes an interactive website, a technical assistance call center staffed by economic development specialists, and a publications clearinghouse. The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Native American Programs coordinates Native eDGE.

The Website is fully interactive with a user-friendly search engine allowing clients to define projects and the type of assistance they need. To date, more than 500 projects have been registered in eLab, which serves as an electronic filing cabinet for Native eDGE clients. Once a project is registered in eLab, economic development specialists follow-up to provide on-going information and assistance to implement the project. The website has four major tracks: educational development, career development, economic development planning, and business development. A youth entrepreneurial track is being planned. The website also includes 170 Federal programmatic contacts, 60 educational contacts, and links to 70 technical assistance organizations.



The T/A Call Center is toll-free—1-877-807-9013.

It can be used to get more detailed assistance than is available through the website. Call Center staff provide guidance regarding the economic development process and, based on the needs of the client, provide tailored assistance to meet their requirements. This toll-free number has been used to provide technical assistance and information to some of the smallest and most remote Native Villages in Alaska.



The Clearinghouse provides informational brochures, pamphlets, and promotional materials on economic development. An electronic library of Federal program information has been established and will be expanded based on user requests. Clearinghouse information may be electronically downloaded or requested through access to a toll-free number—1-800-767-7468.

Congratulations to the HUD Native eDGE staff!
James Floyd Francis “Lou” Gros Louis Dennis Daniels

Tribes Save Money with World Com FTS 2001 Phone Rates

Along with the rest of the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs recently switched long distance services to Worldcom FTS 2001 (formerly MCI).

To receive long-distance rates as low as 3.5 cents per minute, tribes should contact their Regional Designated Agency Representative-BIA Telecommunications Specialist, a Worldcom Representative, or a GSA FTS Representative.

Mike Black (Rocky Mountain/NW)
406-657-6675

Byron Carr (Law Enforcement)
505-248-7937

Rod Hall (Great Plains/Midwest)
605-226-7371

Ernest Joe (Southwest/Western)
505-346-7596

Daryl Long (Navajo) 505-863-8435

Don Thompson (Eastern)
828-497-9131 x241;

John King (Central Office and all other regions) 505-346-6511

Worldcom National Indian Account Manager, Barbara Small,
972-335-2648.

GSA FTS National Indian Account Representative, Kerry Romesberg
703-306-6474.

If you have trouble with Worldcom services, call your Regional DAR or call the FTS 201 trouble center at 1-888-387-7821.



Bridging the Digital Divide ...

The Indian Health Service, in partnership with the Federal Technology Service (FTS), installed microwave links at Shiprock, New Mexico in June 2000. This connectivity was used to support the Northern New Mexico Hospital's Telemedicine project and the NASA Virtual Collaborative Clinic.

The broad band integrated solution includes transmission media such as microwave radio, fiber and copper; routers, work station wiring, repeaters and personal computers; telephone switches, telephone instruments and riser cables; FTS2001 services such as frame relay, asynchronous transfer mode, DS1, DS3, OC3, OC12, and other tariff LEC, CLEC and carrier services; specified increments of bandwidth; and necessary maintenance and access arrangements.

The Native American Broad Band Consortium was developed to share this broad band technology with the community. The Consortium presently includes the Indian Health Service, the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation Tribal Government offices and associated Tribal organizations, the Zuni Pueblo, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Consortium will assess the needs in northern New Mexico to bridge the digital divide for all other tribal nations and Federal agencies. Under the Consortium Charter, other Federal agencies and tribal governments will be allowed to join as projected interest in technology requirements increases in Indian Country.

Geographic locations presented the greatest challenge for developing and providing the comprehensive solution to the most remote part of



Shiprock

Indian Country, including the communities along the New Mexico/Arizona borders. The GSA and the IHS faced almost insurmountable problems because of the scarcity of broad band capabilities in the non-metropolitan areas. The solution was to bundle tribal and Federal requirements and supply the much-needed bandwidth by using government furnished microwave systems and establishing a LANI into the FTS2001 Services network. The requirements are supplied by one MCI provided DS3 in Albuquerque at an estimated annual cost saving to the IHS of \$250,000. Long-term plans are to achieve a backbone infrastructure capable of supporting OC3 speeds or higher and applying for an FCC license.

For more information on the Consortium, please contact Sara Crazy Thunder at (505) 899-5702 or email LCDR Tom Duran, CIO, Northern New Mexico Hospital at tom.duran@shiprock.ihs.gov.

GSA Federal Technology Service (FTS) customers benefit from faster and easier technology deployment with in-place contracts and an on-line ordering system. Experienced FTS employees and their industry partners enable FTS to deliver a full range of high quality technology services and solutions.

To learn more about FTS network services and IT solutions, contact Sara Crazy Thunder at 505-899-5702 or sara.crazythunder@gsa.gov.

U.S. Supreme Court Justices Learn About Innovative Approach to Drug Problems

The Spokane Tribe has a reputation for its efforts towards "wellness" for its members. Recently, two US Supreme Court Justices visited tribal facilities to learn more about how the Tribe handles drug offenders. The tribe takes a traditional, holistic approach to addressing addictions by trying to solve the root problems. Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Stephen Breyer spent the day at the Tribal Court and came away impressed by this innovative approach to addressing such a complicated problem.

The objective of the Spokane Tribe's Substance Abuse Program is to provide effective and therapeutic outpatient treatment, with strong, community focused intervention and prevention efforts. The Tribe recognizes that everyone in the tribal community is affected—directly or indirectly—by chemical dependencies. The problems stemming from addiction are social, psychological, mental, physical, and economic. For these reasons, services are not limited to individual clients, but encompass the family, and the entire tribal community.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program

High School Seniors, GED Recipients, and incoming college freshmen are eligible nominees for scholarships provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Visit www.gmsp.org, www.gatesfoundation.org, or call 1-877-690-GMSP for nomination information. The nomination deadline is February 1, 2002.



HUD/Tribal Consultations (Continued from page 1 ...)

HUD's administration of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) was the focus of many discussions. Consultation tracks included the environmental review process, development and infrastructure issues, and lending programs.

HUD's Ted Key promised the attendees at the Summit that the Department would do its best to implement their solutions in the least burdensome way, but noted that not all proposed solutions could be implemented exactly as they were recommended. In some cases there were fundamental disagreements between proposed solutions, conflicts with policy, or statutory or legal impediments. But Key stressed that "What we want to do is work through these issues to our mutual satisfaction."

The use of the formal negotiated rulemaking process was a major topic of discussion. While there was a consensus that the neg-reg process was appropriate for major substantive changes, such as the formula for calculating block grant funding, there was disagreement over whether the process should be used for every regulatory change.

Many tribal leaders and HUD officials believe that neg-reg is not the only method that can be used to achieve effective consultation. For example, before some draft rules are promulgated for certain NAHASDA amendments, HUD will solicit comments directly from tribal leaders and other interested parties by mail. This is a reasonable way to quickly implement changes that are

straightforward and non-controversial. This method also conserves scarce resources that can be used more efficiently when more complex issues require the more formal—and costly—process of negotiated rulemaking.

HUD's new tribal consultation policy was released just days before the summit convened. The policy, itself a product of years of tribal consultation, was endorsed by most tribal leaders yet criticized by some. Representatives from approximately 80 tribes and Alaska villages signed a resolution expressing their dissatisfaction.

In contrast, a tribal representative read a letter to conference participants that supported HUD's consultation initiatives. That letter stated, in part, "... we do not believe that a formal process such as negotiated rulemaking is required to resolve most of the issues that we have identified We do not believe further delay in dealing with these types of issues serves tribes ... that have acute housing needs ..."

Following the two days of consultation, conferees in St. Paul were offered another day-and-a-half of training and individualized technical assistance sessions. Training topics included lending, management tools, financial literacy, rules regarding lead-based paint and environmental reviews.

New Spokane Clinic (Continued from Page 2 ...)

increases the primary care facilities from four to ten examination rooms, doubling the nursing, dental, and treatment room spaces. Space for laboratories, x-ray rooms, the pharmacy, and waiting rooms are more than doubled.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 2001

RESCHEDULED! The Second Inter-Agency Conference on Planning for Indian Country, co-sponsored by HUD, USDA, AND IHS in Orlando, FL. at the Expo Center, has been rescheduled for May 2002.

December 2001

December 4-5 - Training on the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, sponsored by HUD. Hilton Portland, Portland OR. Registration is FREE, but space is limited. You must register by fax, mail, or on-line at http://www.codetalk.fed.us/HUD_ONAP.html. Call 703-934-3392 (TDD 703-934-3230) for information or a registration form.

December 5-6 - National American Indian Housing Council Legal Symposium, Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. For information, call 800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

January 2002

January 7-10 - National Indian Health Board Annual Conference, Denver, CO. For information, call the Health Board at 303-759-3075.

January 14-17 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002, "Introduction to Indian Housing Management," San Antonio, TX. For information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

January 16-17 - Northwest Indian Housing Association, Quarterly Meeting, Reno, Nevada.

January 23-24 - Training on the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, sponsored by HUD. Sheraton Mesa Hotel, Mesa, AZ. Registration is FREE, but space is limited. You must register by fax, mail, or on-line at http://www.codetalk.fed.us/HUD_ONAP.html. Call 703-934-3392 (TDD 703-934-3230) for information or a registration form.

January 27-31 - 2002 United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Annual Impact

Week Meeting - Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC.

January 28-31 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002 "Development & Modernization Program Management," San Antonio, TX. For information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

January 29-30 - Native eDGE Training, "Strategies for Creating Sustainable Economic Development," in Phoenix, AZ. For registration information, call 703-934-3392.

January 30-February 1 - 2002 Community Reinvestment Conference, sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, FDIC, Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Grand Hyatt Hotel, San Francisco. Contact Lena Robinson (415) 974-2717.

February 2002

February 11-14 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002 "Force Account Construction Management," Phoenix, AZ. For more information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

February 12-13 - National American Indian Housing Council Legislative Conference, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC. For more details, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

February 25-28 - National Congress of American Indians Executive Council Winter Session - The Wyndham Hotel, 1400 M Street, NW, Washington, DC.

March 2002

March 11-14 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002 "Procurement & Contract Administration," Las Vegas, NV. For information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

March 19-20 - Native eDGE Training, "Strategies for Creating Sustainable Economic Development," in Oklahoma City. For registration information, call 703-934-3392.

March 20-21 - Training on the Section 184 Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, sponsored by HUD. Crown Plaza North Star, Minneapolis, MN. Registration is FREE, but space is limited. You must register by fax, mail, or on-line at http://www.codetalk.fed.us/HUD_ONAP.html. Call 703-934-3392 (TDD 703-934-3230) for information or a registration form.

March 25-28 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002 "Resident Services Programs," Denver, CO. For information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

April 2002

April 8-9 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002 "Low Income Housing Tax Credit Financing Seminar," Albuquerque, NM. For information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

April 9-10 - Native eDGE Training, "Strategies for Creating Sustainable Economic Development," in Portland, OR. For registration information, call 703-934-3392.

April 10-11 - National American Indian Housing Council Leadership Institute 2002 "Tax Exempt Bond Financing Seminar," Albuquerque, NM. For information, call 1-800-284-9165 or 202-789-1754.

May 2002

May 7-9 - The Second Inter-Agency Conference on Strategic Planning for Indian Country, "Setting the Plan in Motion," co-sponsored by HUD, USDA, and IHS. An inter-agency event bringing together Native American tribes, Federal agencies, nonprofits and others who share a commitment to Native communities. Planned in collaboration with tribal planners and tribal representatives, the Conference will explore ways tribes and agencies can work together to build strong tribal communities. Conference site: Orlando Expo Centre, Orlando, FL. (This Conference was originally scheduled for November 2001.)





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